Cocaine

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What is Cocaine?

- Cocaine is a bitter, white, odorless, crystalline drug.
- Cocaine has been classified as a Schedule II drug by the United States.
- Cocaine is extracted and refined from the Coca plant.
- A highly addictive stimulant that produces profound feelings of pleasure.

Learning Objectives

- Identify the ways cocaine can be consumed.
- Identify the effects cocaine has on the body.

History of Cocaine

1662 – Abraham Cowley writes *A Legend of Coca*, a poem about coca.

1708 – Coca is first mentioned in a materia medica, Institutiones Medicae.

1850s – Coca is used for the first time in throat surgery.

1855 – Cocaine is extracted from Coca leaves for the first time.

1862 – Merck produces ¼ pound

History of Cocaine

1883 – Merck produces ¾ pound of cocaine.

1884 – Cocaine is regularly used as an anesthetic in eye surgery.

1884 – Sigmund Freud publishes an article in which he recommends the use of cocaine to treat morphine addiction.

1884 – Merck produces 3,179 pounds of cocaine.

1886 – Merck produces 158,352

History of Cocaine

1886 – Coca Cola is first produced containing syrup and caffeine laced with cocaine.

1880s – Parke, Davis manufacture refined cocaine.

1905 – The snorting of cocaine begins to gain in popularity

1910 – First cases of nasal damage due to cocaine use are seen in hospitals around the United States.

1912 – Over 5,000 cocaine related deaths are reported in the

History of Cocaine

1914 – Cocaine is banned in the United States.

1976 – Freebase cocaine is first developed.

1980s – Crack is popularized by dealers and glamorized by the Hollywood media.

Mid 1980s – Crack cocaine becomes popular throughout the United States.

Crack
image from the Publisher Group

How is Cocaine Used?

Cocaine can be snorted, injected, smoked or eaten. The level and length of the effects depend on how the drug was induced.

	Onset	Duration
Snorted	1 minute	20-40 minutes
Injected	1-5 seconds	15-20 minutes
Smoked	Immediate	5-15 minutes

Cocaine's Physical Effects

While even the purest cocaine is dangerous, the cocaine that is purchased on the streets is even more so as it is often cut with powders of similar color, making it extremely impure. Physical side effects that have been known to be caused by cocaine use are:

- **Decreased Appetite**
- **Increased Body Temperature**
- **Increased Heart Rate**
- **Dilated Pupils**
- **Severe Nose Damage (when snorted)**
- **Violent Behavior**
- **Kidney Failure**
- **Seizure and/or Stroke**

Cocaine's Physiological Effects

- Increased Alertness
- Decreased Fatigue
- Increased Concentration
- Insomnia
- Increased Irritability
- Increased Psychosis
- Confused Behavior
- Increased Fear
- Extreme Paranoia
- Severe Anxiety Attacks
- Hallucinations (in extreme cases)
- Aggressive Behavior

Addiction and Withdrawal

Cocaine is one of the most addictive drugs known to man. Those who use cocaine heavily or regularly find it extremely difficult to stop and often suffer through serious withdrawal symptoms such as:

- **Severe Irritability**
- **Chronic Depression**
- **Paranoia**
- **Loss of Sex Drive**
- **Insomnia**
- **Excessive Sleep**
- **Eating Disorders**
- **Nausea / Vomiting**
- **Diarrhea**
- **Heart Attack**

Cocaine Testing in the Army

- Cocaine can be detected in urine for 2-3 days after ingestion.
- The Army tests every specimen for:
  - Cocaine
  - THC
  - Amphetamines
- The illegal use of cocaine or any drug goes against Soldiers Values.

Additional Information

Additional information on cocaine can be found by contacting the Army Substance Abuse Program or by visiting http://www.acsap.army.mil.